TRUE CHRISTIAN LOVE

To be sung with any of the common Tunes of the Psalms

Coloss. iii 16.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all Wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and Hymns, and spiritual Songs, singing with grace in your Hearts to the Lord.

1 Pet. i. 8. *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of Glory.*

Written by the late Reverend and learned Mr. David Dickson, sometime Minister of the Gospel at Irvine, afterwards Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh.

To which is added, *Hony Drops, or, Chrystal Streams flowing from Christ the fountain and Head thereof.*

GLASGOW:

Printed in the Year, M, D C C, L I.

TO THE

READER.

SInce Christ's fair truth craves no mans a
Take this rude song in better part.

TRUE
RISTIAN LOVE.

e a Heart for Love, ſo then
annot chooſe but have
ove that can give full content,
the leaſt as I can crave,
want not Suitors and they all *Pſal.* 4. 6, 7
have agents ſtill with me.
Who promiſe that which I do ſeek, 1. *John* 2.
but ſure I know they lie. 15, 16, 17

Though Honour heght to lift me up,
and *Mammon* me to ſerve;
Yet their Attendants skars me not, 1 *Tim.* 6. 7.
nor makes my Heart to ſwerve.
Pale Fear, dusk Envy, Care and Toil,
with other ill hew'd Wights,
Wait for my ſervice if I need,
their Maſters, O what fights.

The only thing like to prevail,
was match'd unto my mind:
When Fancy buskt my party with *Eccleſ.* 1. 2.
Perfections of each Kind.
But now I ſee that Fancy is
not real as it ſeems:
No earthly Love can give content:
all Loves but Chriſt are Dreams.

Then why want I contenting Love,
ſince Chriſt's love may be had:
In whom is all that I do ſeek,
or can be thought or ſaid?

What other Loves do seem
is truly in him found:
Cant. 5. 10. The scattered beauties of the
in him are jointly bound.

What they do lack and cannot
because they finite be:
'Tis infinite, in him it stands
for ever still: O he,
He, he, is only worthy Love,
and nothing else but he:
Alas; that Vanity so long
hath so bewitched me.

Why heard I flatt'ring Idols Words
why did I parly keep?
Why suffered I Affliction
to sing me so asleep?
Ps. 77. 22. How went I on so foolishly,
and kept so oft their tryst,
As if false loves could be found true,
and had no mind of Christ?

No, not when Christ was suiting me,
and they found oft untrue:
I stuck still in the bonds, and could,
myself no ways rescue.
Ps. 73. 23. Yet good and wise Lord Jesus Christ,
did still pursue my Love:
He knew, tho' I refus'd, my Heart
was his, he could me move.

Cant. 8. 4. And now 'tis done, my love is thine,
Lord Jesus, come receive
This whorish Heart, and suffer not
my soul hence to deceive.
There shall my suiters all me serve,
but thou my Love shalt be.

They

all be mine, not I theirs, else
shall not follow me.

shall I have Advantage twice,
d blest shall be my lot:
t my Lovers Goods and Love
ve theirs, well I wot.
ve that will not me despise,
nough I unworthy be.

Tho' vile and loathsome, yet will he — *Can.* 15. 1.
not loath, but pity me. — *Ezek.* 16.

Tho' fickle I, he will not change,
his constancy is known: — *Mal.* 3. 6.
Of change no shadow is with him, — *James* 1.
he loves for ay his own. — 17.
When I for want of wit and strength — *Joh.* 13. 15.
offend, and do confess: — *Psal.* 103.
He will not chide, but pardon me — 8, 9.
my Faults both more and less.

He will no charge upon me lay, — 1 *Cor.* 10.
more than I may well bear: — 16.
But will my Burthens, as I need
support: I do not fear.
No wrath at others will cause him — *Hab.* 3. 25
unpleasant be to me:
No slanderer will get his Ear,
to hear of me a Lie.

He will not misconstruct my Words, — *Isa.* 17. 45.
he will not angry be:
Nor fret without a cause, nor frown, — *Ps.* 103 5.
nor fitch a Fault fastly:
Nor mark my ways so narrowly, — 1 *Pet.* 4. 9.
as nothing to pass by,
His Love will hide my Sin, in Love,
Faith safely may rely.

He

He will not waste his Her
nor will himself disgrace:
Ps. 89. 22. No Foes can hurt him, and the
he turns upon their Face.
John 13. His Love to other Saints shall
work prejudice to me,
More than the Suns light unto
doth hinder me to see.

No causeless jealousie will vex
at any Time his Mind:
Isa. 30. 21. But if he see my heart go wrong,
Rev. 2. 19. I know he is so kind,
As to admonish and rebuke,
and chasten if it need;
And so me save from perishing,
too oft deserv'd indeed.

Gen. 12. 3. If I be sad, he will be loath
yet more to vex my Heart:
Num. 24. 9. If any other will do so,
'gainst them he'll take my Part.
And those that grieve me, he will grieve.
and curse them more and less
That curseth me, so will he those
that bless me surely bless.

Job. 5. 29. If Trouble set about me round,
Ps. 61. 15. he will not me forsake,
Nor leave me comfortless alone,
but pity on me take.
Pet. 13. 17. And if he hide his face a while,
as Wisdom oft requires,
Jam. 1, 2. He doth but exercise my Faith,
and sharpen my Desires.

And if he seem to stay well long,
that I become so dead.

As

neither say nor sing,
meditate nor read:
o ought else that might assuage,
rts pangs in such a case:
igh and droop, and hang my Head,
g looking for his Grace.

ring but broken Words or none,
perplext with thoughts confus'd;
Suggestions whisper all the while,
as if I were refus'd.

Yet still his gracious Hand doth me *John* 5. 14.
support with secret Strength,
And makes me in these deeps not drown *Is.* 23. 2.
but brings me thro' at length.

Mean time he keeps my scatter'd Words, *Ps.* 56. 8.
and failing those my Tears:
In Books and Bottles, and takes course
to rid me out of fears.
And failing both my Words and Tears,
he marks each woful Groan:
And failing those my sighs and all
the Parcels of my Moan.

Yea when I sit astonished, *Ps.* 120. 2.
my lifted Hands and Looks
Speaks all my Mind to him, as if
it written were in books.
For he doth search the Heart and knows
what is the Spirits mind:
And as its fit gives Answer to
need's cry in every kind.

And look how sharp these Tryals are,
their fruit is far more sweet;
His Countenance compenseth all, *Rom.* 8. 17.
with one blink when we meet. *Ps.* 20. 5.

For

Ps. 4. 7. For he doth make my Heart t
Ps. 34. 21. then any Tongue can tell,
Ps. 76. Tho' grief was great, yet joy is
more sweet than Grief was

For judge ye whosoever felt
what weight in Sin, what G
In Mind oppress't what Anguish
when Soul sees no relief.
What Torments in perplexity,
what horror in God's Wrath;
What Hell is fear'd Eternity,
at losing of his Breath.

And presuppone a Soul were sure
to dwell at last above
Pro. 13. 12 In Heaven with Christ, yet know ye not
Ps. 22. 42. what languor is in Love:
Ps. 11. 6, 3. What Sickness in deferred Hopes,
24. *and* 7. 8. what Battle without Foe?
What trouble when God hides his face
and seems us to forgo.

Now judge again; when weights are lift
Grief, Anguish, Torments gone:
For Wrath, Death, Hell, Eternity,
of Fear now there is none.
But in their Place the Heart lift up,
Life, Light and rest is come:
Felt love, peace, victory, hearts-health,
and Christ's Sp'rit all in Sum.

Judge when our much provoked Lord,
himself shows reconcil'd,
If with the joy that then is felt,
a Heart may not be fill'd.
Now what can others Love do here,
to Souls in such a Case.

But

...e Grief and make the Vail *Jo.* 15.13.
...ick to hide Christ's Face:

...er Loves, all get you gone,
... take Servants Place:
...d Conditions were to me,
...u to quite his Face.
... Hours joy in him is more, *Ps.* 64. 10.
...ugh mixt with dreary Tears,
...en all Earth's Honour, Pleasure, Wealth,
...can yield in many Years.

...ow let me rest and rouse my Love, *Ps.* 116. 7.
...who first me lov'd and chus'd,
...ng call'd for my worthless Love, *Gal.* 2. 20.
...ould not be refus'd.
... his Love as he sought mine,
...rn of him to Love,
... vites I cannot miss,
... whiles he shall me prove.

My ... his Fathers eldest Son,
his ...her, King of Kings: *John* 2. 18.
His Heritage is Heaven and Earth,
and in them both all Things. *Dan.* 2. 47.
His Wisdom laid the World all round, *Ps.* 2. 8.
and parted Sea and Land, *Heb.* 1. 2.
Earth's Body thro', as Veins, he drew *Prov.* 8. 22.
the Waters with his Hand. &c.

He made the Sun and Stars so swift,
yet not be seen to move,
Lest Man on Earth had vexed been
with Motions from above.
His Strength upholds this weighty Globe,
and yet which is far more,
He bare our Sins and heavy Wrath,
deserv'd of us therefore.

2*Cor.*1.20. For Truth Gods promises
are all, yea, and Amen:
For Love, his Death for us a
sufficient hath been.
For Justice, he can do no wro
for Mercy, there is none,
Or shall in Hell be, who have
for Grace thro' him alone.

*Deut.*2.31. Most lofty and most lowly Mind,
4. most good and most severe.
*Isa.*57.15. Most lovely, and most terrible,
*Mat.*11.29. do all in him co-here.
The meekest Lamb to all his F
a Lion to his Foes.
He gives his peace to all that
wrath follows all that
No Foe can stand before
no Fugitive can flee,
*Mal.*3.2. No lurking Hole can hide ro him
*Ps.*139.8. his Eyes do all things see.
7,10.11,12. Almighty all where present, though
*Rev.*4.7. his Body Heaven contain.
*Mat.*28.20. Eternal God, tho' he as Man,
Man's property retain.
No robb'ry for his Majesty
his Father's Match to be,
The Father's God head & the Sp'rit's,
and his are one all three.
*Phil.*2.6. Therefore when I do love the Son,
*John.*5.7. I love the Father too,
And so the Sp'rit, who dwells in him,
to all I worship do.

*Gen.*3.22. He is the Tree of Life to me,
ibid 24. and so to all his own.

No